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ISLE OF MAN.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

SUMMARY

BY THE

Local Government Board

OF THE

ANNUAL REPORT

Of its Inspector as to PUBLIC HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1925,

Together with REPORTS from DOUGLAS and RAMSEY.

Wt., P. 54—200/6/26.

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Presented by

Secretary

July 1926

SUMMARY by the Local Government Board of the ANNUAL REPORT of its Inspector as to Public Health in the Isle of Man for the year ended 31st December, 1925, together with copies of the Inspector's Report, and of Reports from Douglas and Ramsey as to Public Health in those Towns.

To His Excellency Major-General Sir William Fry, K.C.V.O., C.B., Lieutenant Governor, and the Honourable the Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled.

The Local Government Board has the honour to lay before the Court a summary of the report of its Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1925, in comformity with the provisions of the Local Government Consolidation Act, 1916.

The total number of cases of infectious disease reported during the year, exclusive of Douglas and Ramsey, is 215, against 607 last year. Of these 4 are of diptheria, 15 of scarlet fever, 5 of enteric, 56 of measles, 57 of chicken-pox, 3 of erysipelas, and 64 of tuberculosis.

The decrease in the number of cases reported this year is accounted for by the smaller number of cases of measles reported.

The number of cases of diptheria show a decrease of one when compared with last year. No deaths occurred from this disease. The usual inquiries into the cause of the disease were made.

Of the 5 cases of enteric, 4 proved fatal. These cases were all isolated outbreaks and occurred in the parishes of Ballaugh, Malew, German, and Marown. The Marown case was a very doubtful one and the patient remained in hospital only a few days. It is thought that the water supplies were responsible for the outbreaks.

The cases of scarlet fever show an increase of 6 compared with last year.

No case of cerebro-spinal meningitis, puerperal fever or smallpox was notified during the year.

The report comments favourably upon the absence of smallpox in the Isle of Man in view of its prevalence in England, and urges the need for local authorities being on their guard to prevent its introduction into the Island. The need for vaccination is advocated.

The number of cases of tuberculosis include 112 of pulmonary tuberculosis and 42 of other varieties showing in localised form. It is thought that the increase in the number of cases notified has been brought about by the increased facilities provided by the Board for the examination of sputum. There were 77 deaths from this disease during the year, a decrease of 13 as compared with last year. Of these only 24 were notified as suffering from tuberculosis during their lives. All premises where deaths occurred were disinfected. Leaflets containing information on the subject and sputum flasks for the use of patients can be had at the offices of the Local Government Board.

Forty-nine persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis have been treated at Sanatoria during the year, an increase of 17 as compared with 1924. The patients have been treated at the undermentioned Sanatoria:—

Westmoreland Sanatorium, Meathop...	32
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kent.....	9
Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth	3
Delamere Forest, Cheshire	2
Barrowmore Hall, Chester	3

Twenty-seven patients were discharged during the year. One died whilst undergoing treatment, and three died after being discharged. Nine advanced cases were treated at the Home for the Poor. The Board now retains 8 beds at Westmoreland Sanatorium for the use of Manx patients.

Mr Charles Gill and Mr J. F. Crellin, two members of the Board, visited patients at Westmoreland, and reported that the conditions there were highly satisfactory.

To enable poor patients to take advantage of the treatment offered by the various Sanatoria it has been found necessary in many cases, in addition to paying the maintenance fees, to provide the necessary clothing and travelling expenses, and in some cases an escort.

The following tables are given in the report showing (1) the occupations of persons notified during the year;

(2) the rise and fall in the number of deaths from tuberculosis from 1902 to 1925; (3) particulars of specimens submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination; and (4) particulars of specimens submitted to Manchester University for bacteriological examination.

No serious outbreak of influenza occurred during the year.

The Board continue to provide the drugs necessary for the treatment of venereal disease, but very little was found to be necessary.

The report states that the figures giving the number of deaths from cancer are not yet available, but 82 deaths occurred from this disease in 1924, or 19 less than in 1923.

Isolation Hospital accommodation has again proved sufficient for the needs of the Island.

The motor ambulance has proved very useful in removing patients to hospital and particulars of the numbers moved are given in the report.

The Ramsey Commissioners have provided satisfactory public sanitary conveniences during the year situated near the Market Place.

No action has been taken by the Laxey Commissioners to provide public conveniences, and the Board has the same under consideration.

Schools, both public and private, have been kept under observation and general improvement reported in conditions of drainage and water supply.

No change is reported in methods for dealing with refuse disposal, but it is stated that greater care has been taken to keep tips in better condiion in the various towns.

Particulars are given of the number of plans submitted to the Board for approval by parish districts.

Progress is reported in the various housing schemes. Public sewers have been kept under observation.

The work in connection with the Northern Outfall Sewer at Douglas is proceeding satisfactorily, but very slowly.

The Onchan Village Commissioners are extending their sewer a short distance in the neighbourhood of the Majestic Hotel, but have not yet extended their Outfall Sewer at this point, for which approval was obtained in 1923.

The new sewer to replace the defective one between Malew Street and Milner Terrace, Castletown, has been completed during the year.

Port St. Mary Commissioners have obtained the Board's approval for the extension of their sewer near the Smelt.

The repair of the sewer at the Mooragh by the Ramsey Commissioners has been done in a satisfactory manner and is near completion.

The Peel Town Commissioners have carried out improvements to the public sewer along the Quay, and contemplate improving the Promenade sewer in a similar way.

A number of private house drains have been tested and reconstructed under the supervision of the Board's Inspector.

The drains and sanitary fittings as well as the general construction of all houses erected under the Housing Act, 1924, are regularly inspected.

A new smoke machine has been purchased during the year.

Attention has been given to public water supplies, some of which have given cause for anxiety with regard to quantity and quality.

The Douglas Corporation have decided to bring a second pipe from Injebreck at a cost of about £30,000.

Particulars are given of a new scheme for supplying Laxey and district with water.

The new Rushen Reservoir is now practically completed.

It is necessary that water supplies should be obtained for certain villages, particularly Michael, at an early date, which latter has not yet proceeded with their drainage system, authorized two years ago.

Cowsheds and Dairies have been regularly inspected, and continued improve-

ment with regard to cleanliness of milk is reported.

Twenty-four samples of milk taken from suspected animals were examined for Tubercle Bacilli at Manchester University. Of these 20 were reported negative and 4 positive. As compared with other districts on the mainland, the standard of freedom from Tuberculosis in cattle is exceptionally high.

Slaughter-houses have been kept under close observation, and the bye-laws generally well kept.

Particulars are given by the Inspector of the work done by him under the Factories Act, the Adulteration Act, the Children Act, and the Mechanical Contrivances Act; also, particulars in regard to Petitions presented to Tynwald by local authorities for leave to borrow money, and heard by and reported on by the Board.

The Board has pleasure in expressing its satisfaction with the work done by its Secretary and Inspectors.

Attendances of Members at meetings of the Board during the year ended 31st December, 1925, are as follows:—

	No. of Meetings.	Attendances Made.
J. D. Clucas	22	19
R. C. Cain	,,	19
Chas. Gill	,,	18
J. R. Corrin	,,	11
J. F. Crellin	,,	22
R. B. Quirk	,,	15
J. W. Cannan	,,	15

J. D. CLUCAS.
R. C. CAIN.
CHAS. GILL.
JOHN W. CANNAN.
RICHD. B. QUIRK.
JOHN F. CRELLIN.
J. R. CORRIN.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Inspector's Office,
Murray House,
Government Buildings,
Douglas, 31st January, 1926.

To the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December, 1925, which gives particulars of the various duties performed under the Local Government Acts, the Factories and Workshops Act, Part I of the Children Act, the Adulteration Acts, the Housing Acts, the Mechanical Contrivances Act, and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, exclusive of Douglas and Ramsey were as follows:—

Disease.	Cases.
Diphtheria	4
Scarlet Fever	15
Enteric	5
Measles	56
Chickenpox	57
Erysipelas	3
Tuberculosis	75
Total	215

It will be observed that the total number of cases of infectious disease reported show a reduction of 392 when compared with the previous year. This decrease is accounted for in the number of cases of measles reported.

DIPHTHERIA.

The four cases of Diphtheria show a decrease of one when compared with the previous year. No deaths from this disease occurred during the year. The milk and water supplies, and also the sanitary conditions, were inquired into in every case.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

The number given shows, when compared with the previous year, an increase of two. Four of the cases had a fatal result. Two of the cases occurred in Ballaugh, where a daughter contracted the disease from her father. One case occurred in Malew, one in German, and one in Marown. It will be noticed that they were all isolated outbreaks. The case which occurred in Marown was a very doubtful case and the patient remained in hospital only a few days. The drains and water supplies were examined in each case, and I am of opinion that the water supplies were at fault. The freedom of the Island from this disease shows that whilst the water supplies throughout the Island may be limited in quantity that the quality is good.

CEREBRO-SPINAL-MENINGITIS.
(Spotted Fever.)

No case of this serious disease was notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

The fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever reported show an increase of six when compared with the previous year. The total number reported are very few, and this must be considered satisfactory when it is considered how easily this disease can be conveyed and imported into the Island, particularly during the summer season.

ERYSIPELAS.

Three cases of this disease were reported during the year.

CHICKENPOX.

Fifty-seven cases of Chickenpox were notified. I may again point out that the chief reason for making this disease notifiable is because of its similarity in the early stages to Smallpox, and, therefore, the risk of a case of Smallpox being unnotified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

No case of this disease was reported during the year. It is remarkable how free the Island appears to be from this disease.

SMALLPOX.

Notwithstanding that Smallpox has been, and is at the time of writing, very prevalent in England, no case of this disease has been reported. It is very necessary that all health authorities should be on their guard to prevent, if possible, the introduction of this disease into the Island. It has been proved beyond doubt that efficient vaccination affords protection against Smallpox, and in the vast majority of cases vaccination is a harmless proceeding. Persons who are vaccinated are not in the least likely to contract Smallpox. It is a very serious matter in the interests of

the general community that there has been such a decline in the number of children vaccinated. The Local Government Board is still prepared to supply medical practitioners with lymph from the Government Laboratories free.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis of all varieties notified during the year, including Douglas and Ramsey, was 154. Douglas, 69.; Ramsey, 10; and other districts in the Island, 75. The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 112, and the number of other varieties, which shows itself in a localised form, was 42. The increase in the total number of cases notified has without doubt been brought about by the increased facilities provided by the Board for the examination of sputum at the Government Laboratory and the Manchester University. Cases that would previously have passed unnotified are now brought to light. Three of the persons notified were not permanent residents on the Island.

Seventy-seven persons died during the year from this disease, 18 of these were notified in previous years. The number of deaths, when compared with the year 1924, show a decrease of 13. Twenty-four of the 77 persons who died were not notified when living, but were certified after death to have died from Tuberculosis. This is an improvement on past years.

NUMBER AND FORM OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED.

	Pulmonary.	Other Varieties.	Totals.
Douglas	50	19	69
Ramsey	6	4	10
Other Districts	56	19	75
	112	42	154

I have again to report that great care has been taken in the Island to have all premises where deaths occur from this disease disinfected. Leaflets giving information regarding this disease and sputum flasks for the use of patients can still be had from the offices of the Local Government Board. Arrangements are still in operation whereby medical practitioners can have speciments relating to Tuberculosis, Enteric Fever, Diptheria, and Venereal Diseases examined free, either at the Government Laboratory or at the Manchester University.

During the year, 49 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been undergoing treatment on the Mainland in accordance with arrangements made by the Board. The number under treatment shows an increase of 17 when compared with the previous year.

Thirty-two patients, 19 males and 13 females, have been undergoing treatment at Meathorp Sanatorium, Westmoreland.

Nine patients, all males, have been undergoing treatment at the Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kent.

Three patients, 1 male and 2 females, have been treated at the Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.

Two female patients have been undergoing treatment at Delamere Forest Sanatorium, Cheshire.

Three male patients have been treated at Barrowmore Hall Sanatorium, Cheshire.

The number discharged from the different Sanatoria during the year was 27.

One patient died whilst undergoing treatment, and three died after being discharged.

Five patients from Meathorp Sanatorium were transferred to Southport Tuberculosis Hospital for special treatment.

Nine advanced cases underwent special treatment at the Home for the Poor. Of these nine, one was transferred to an English Sanatorium and one died. As previously stated, a number of patients showed a marked improvement as the result of good treatment received by them from the officials.

It will be seen from this report that it has been found necessary to place patients in various sanatoria in England, to enable them to receive treatment in the climate considered most suitable for them. The Board always welcomes applications for treatment, and no difficulty has been found during the year in placing applicants into suitable sanitoria.

The Board has secured eight beds at Meathorp Sanatorium, for which an annual payment is made, these being available for Manx patients only, and any further accommodation required will be paid for at the usual weekly charge.

Two members of the Board (Mr Charles Gill and Mr J. F. Crellin) were appointed to visit the patients undergoing treatment, and the visit was greatly appreciated. The report made by the deputation with regard to treatment and conditions was highly satisfactory. A good deal of expense has been incurred during the year in providing some of the patients with the necessary outfit as regards clothing. Travelling expenses and in some cases an escort has had

to be provided. This expenditure is very carefully watched, but in no case of need has anything necessary been withheld.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Table showing occupation of persons notified during the year ended the 31st December, 1925 (inclusive of Douglas and Ramsey). This includes Pulmonary and other varieties.

Females.

Housewives	20
Schoolgirls	18
Laundress	1
Shop Assistants	2
Nurse	1
Domestics	12
Infants	3
School Teacher	1
Knitters	3
Dressmakers	2
Clerks	3
Cinema Attendant	1
Confectioner	1
Occupation not stated	8
	76

Males.

Schoolboys	13
Labourers	16
Infants	5
Miners	4
Farmers	5
Plumbers	4
Engineers	3
Butchers	2
Sawyer	1
Publican	1
Shop Assistant	1
Tailor	1
Coachman	1
Traveller	1
Insurance Agent	1
Corn Merchant	1
Clerk	1
Soldier	1
Police Constable	1
Occupation not stated	15
	78

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SPECIMENS FOR DISEASE.

Particulars of specimens submitted for bacteriological examination by Medical Practitioners, the Local Government Board's Inspector, and others to the Public Analyst during the year 1925.

Nature of Specimen and Examination Required.	Number. Total	Result of Examination.	
		Positive.	Negative.
Throat and Nose Swabs			
for Diphtheria diagnosis	91	29*	62
for other Organisms	2	1	1
Sputum			
for Tubercle Bacillus	261	62*	179
Pus, Exudates			
for Gonococcus	9	1	8
for other Organisms	3	1 (doubtful)	2
Blood			
Wassermann Reaction (Syphilis)	4	1	3
Widal's Test (Typhoid Fever)	5	—	5
Differential Leucocyte Count, etc.	7	—	—
Fæces			
for Bacillus Typhosus	3	—	3
Urine			
for Tubercle Bacillus, Pus, etc.	22	—	—
Milk			
for Tubercle Bacillus	8	1	7
Cerebro-Spinal-Fluid			
for Meningococcus	2	—	2
Miscellaneous			
for Tubercle Bacillus, Anthrax, etc.	5	2	3
Cattle Diseases			
Anthrax	17	5	12
Sheep Scab	4	3	1
Waters	19		

*Inclusive of Re-examinations.

The total number of specimens submitted for bacteriological examination for 1925 amounted to 442, compared with 344 in 1924, an increase of 98. In addition 182 specimens for Ringworm were examined, so that the total number of examinations made at the Insular Laboratory was 624 as against 526 in the previous year.

RE-EXAMINATIONS.

	Total Number.	Positive.	Negative.
Sputum	64		
Diphtheria	23	11	12
Ringworm	153	146	7

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

Bacteriological examinations made during the year 1925:—

Throat Swabs, for Diphtheria diagnosis..	3
Sputum, for Tubercle Baccillus.....	1
Milk, for Tubercle Bacillus	19
Typhoid Fever	1
Pus—Gonococci	1
Wesserman Test	1
Cow's ear—Anthrax	1
Water—Bacteriologically	7
Chemically	2
Total	36

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
INFLUENZA.

Fortunately, this disease did not, as in former years, appear in any serious form. The Board was, however, fully prepared to take all necessary steps to minimise its severity, had it appeared.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Board is always willing to give reasonable facilities for the treatment of this disease, and continues to meet the expense incurred by medical practitioners in providing the necessary expensive drugs. During the year it came to the knowledge of the Board that a certain midwife was making statements as to the prevalence of this disease in the particular district where she carried out her duties. As it is incumbent on midwives to report such cases to the Board, and none having been reported, an inquiry was instituted. All the midwives were asked to freely state, without fear of being dealt with for neglect, whether they had seen a case during the previous year. Each reported that they had not come into contact with a single case in the course of their duties.

CANCER.

The figures giving the number of deaths for 1925 are not yet available. Under the general heading of Cancer, 82 deaths occurred in the year 1924, or 19 less than the number in 1923. The Board has continued to publish in the public Press, information relating to the disease.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The accommodation provided in the Island, viz., at Douglas and Ramsey, for cases of infectious diseases has again, fortunately, owing to the small number of cases of disease reported, been found ample for the needs of the Island during the year.

REMOVAL OF PATIENTS TO HOSPITAL.

During the year the motor ambulance was used to convey from various parts of the Island, 11 cases of infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital. It was used also to remove eight patients suffering from Tuberculosis in an advanced stage to the special quarters at the Home for the Poor. One person suffering from heart trouble, and one from serious hemorrhage, were removed to the same institution, and one other to the Mental Hospital. The use of the motor ambulance has made a great difference in the comfort of the patients conveyed to Hospital.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The Ramsey Town Commissioners have provided during the year satisfactory accommodation near the Market Place.

Although the attention of the Laxey Village Commissioners has been drawn on several occasions to the need of public conveniences in their district, no action has been taken by the Commissioners.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The public schools and also private schools have been kept under observation during the year. The conditions with regard to drainage and water supplies are gradually improving.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

No change has been made during the year with regard to the methods for dealing with the refuse of the different towns. Much greater care has been taken to keep the tips in a better condition.

BUILDING PLANS.

Under the provisions of the Building Bye-Laws relating to Parish Districts the number of plans (distinct from housing schemes) dealt with by the Board were as follows:—

Dwelling-houses	50
Sheds and Out-houses ...	5
Garages	2
Drainage	3
Workshop	1
Total	69

Approved, 67. Disapproved, 2.

HOUSING.

Progress has been made during the year with regard to housing schemes in the various parts of the Island.

In Douglas, the scheme formulated under the Douglas Town Improvement Act, 1922, has been completed. Thirty-four houses have been built and occupied in Circular-road, Westmoreland-road, Princes-street, Allan-street, Orry-street, and Peveril-street. Under this scheme the Government was required to pay half the cost of each house, the total sum to be paid not to exceed £13,625. Grants totalling that amount have been paid on the certificate of the Board. The total cost of the 34 houses has been £28,390 10s 2d, or an average of £835 per house.

Under the Housing Act, 1924, in which it is provided that the Government grant shall not exceed £250 per house, the Douglas Corporation have had schemes approved for 119 houses. The majority of these houses have been erected and occupied, and the work is progressing very satisfactorily with regard to the others. Up to date the sum of £10,659 3s 7d has been paid to the Corporation on the certificate of the Board. Plans for an additional ten houses have been approved for the Douglas Corporation.

Ramsey are erecting 16 houses; Peel, 10; Castletown, 6; Malew Parish Commissioners, 8; Rushen Parish Commissioners, 2. Payments have been periodically made in connection, with all these schemes under the certificate of the Board.

Port Erin has commenced to erect four houses; Port St. Mary are proceeding with five; and Braddan Parish Commissioners eight. Total number of houses under the Housing Act, 1924, 188.

The existence in the towns of cogeries of buildings unfit for habitation, and forming what are known as "unhealthy areas," constitutes a reproach upon our civic administration. What is the reason for their continued existence? It is considered that, presumably, a bad house is better than no house at all, and for the last few years local authorities have been so absorbed in building or considering the building of new houses for the houseless that they have not had time to apply their energies and attention to the removal of the slums, which are such a menace to the public health. The force of an awakened public conscience seems now to promise that the slum is doomed. In our hurry towards securing acceleration in removing slum property and building new houses suitable for that particular class of tenant, there is a tendency towards confusion of thought as to how the problem is to be solved, and to have hazy notions as to the design and construction of the type of dwelling most suitable.

The Board, during the year, have put into operation Section 30 of the Local Government Act, 1922. This enables the local authorities of the four towns to make bye-lays to compel owners of tenement houses to provide such conveniences that each family can live in decent apartments with separate water supply, water-closet, etc. The need of provisions of this kind being put in force is very urgent. The conditions under which people live in some tenement houses are deplorable.

DRAINAGE WORK.

The public sewers in the towns and village districts have been kept under close observation during the year.

Douglas Corporation is proceeding satisfactorily with the construction of the new northern outfall sewer.

The Onchan Village Commissioners have extended their sewer for a short distance in the neighbourhood of the Majestic Hotel, but have not yet carried out the extension to their outfall sewer at this point, for which approval was obtained in 1923.

The attention of the Castletown Commissioners had been drawn in two previous reports to the defective sewer between Malew-street and Milner-terrace. This work has been completed during the year.

The Port St. Mary Commissioners obtained the approval of the Board to an extension of their sewer near the Smelt.

The Ramsey Town Commissioners are bringing to a conclusion the work of repairing the sewer on the Mooragh, which work has been done in a very satisfactory manner.

The Peel Town Commissioners have carried out very necessary improvements to the public sewer along the Quay, and contemplate improving the Promenade sewer in a similar way.

A very large number of drains in connection with private houses have been tested and reconstructed under the supervision of your inspectors.

The drains and sanitary fittings, as well as the general construction, of all the houses that are being erected under the housing schemes are regularly inspected on behalf of the Board.

Applications are being constantly received for the use of the Board's drain testing appliances. An additional smoke machine has been purchased during the year, at a cost of £25.

There is a great demand for the model plan for septic tanks prepared by order of the Board.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Special attention has been given during the year to the different public water supplies in the Island.

Certain important public water supplies have again during the year caused a great deal of concern with regard to quantity and quality.

The Douglas Corporation decided to bring a second pipe from Injebreck, at a cost of about £30,000.

The Tynwald Court, on the recommendation of the Board, granted leave to the Corporation to borrow this amount, conditional on certain measures being taken to prevent waste of water.

It is presumed that other water authorities throughout the Island will have to take similar action. Reference was made in the previous annual report to the need of increased storage accommodation at Laxey. A small improvement at a cost of £200 has been made at Gretch Vane, but, during August last year, there was a serious shortage. The Commissioners during the year came forward with a scheme to construct another small reservoir at Gretch Vane, at an estimated cost of £2,000. Although not stated by the Commissioners, the Board had good grounds for believing that they would require a grant of half the cost.

The Board, considering the nature of the gathering ground and the quantity of water that could be obtained from the stream, did not look with favour on this scheme, and advised the Commissioners to consider utilising the Glenroy Reservoir, at the same time considering the requirements of Garwick. A new scheme on the lines suggested is at present being inquired into.

The work in connection with the new reservoir which the Rushen Water Board is providing is now practically completed. It was stated in my last report that Mr Hill, of the firm of G. H. Hill and Sons, of Manchester, had made an inspection of the different sources of supply in the Island, at the instance of a Committee of Tynwald. Mr Hill issued his preliminary report during the year, and this report was adopted by Tynwald.

It is very necessary that water supplies should be obtained for certain villages, particularly Michael, at an early date.

Many of the private supplies throughout the Island have been inspected during the year.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

These premises are regularly inspected and the requirements of the bye-laws fairly well attended to. I am pleased to be able to report continued improvement with regard to cleanliness of milk. The farmers and dairymen are realising the necessity of not only producing milk at the farms under clean conditions, but in the distribution of it. The number of dairymen selling milk in sealed bottles is largely increasing. It is intended during the ensuing year to give increased attention to the conditions at the farms and the purity of milk generally.

It must be said to the credit of the farmers that not a single case of infectious disease has been traced during the year to a milk supply.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Twenty-four samples of milk were examined for Tubercle Bacilli at the Manchester University and at the Government Laboratory, Douglas. Of these, 20 were negative, and 4 positive. These were taken from suspected animals. When compared with other districts on the mainland, the standard of freedom from this disease is very high. Preparations are now being made to take, during 1926, a large number of samples for examination for Tubercle Bacillus, in various parts of the Island.

DISEASES IN CATTLE.

All particulars relating to these will be found in the report issued from Government Office. I may point out that 14 dairy cattle suffering from tubercular disease were found in course of inspection.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These premises have been kept under close observation, and the bye-laws relating to limewashing and cleansing have been, generally speaking, well kept. There are a number of slaughter houses licensed by the Commissioners that are situated in isolated places, which makes proper supervision very difficult. One butcher, the occupier of a country slaughter house, was cautioned for allowing a diseased animal to be slaughtered in a slaughter house. He was subsequently detected doing the same thing, and was prosecuted and heavily fined. Rules for the guidance of butchers and meat purveyors were again issued during the year. In the districts, exclusive of Douglas and Ramsey, nine carcases were destroyed during the year, on account of being diseased. It is a pleasure to be able to state that the majority of the butchers are very anxious to keep within the law with regard to the majority of diseased carcases.

During the year, special regulations relating to the slaughtering of animals, the storage and handling of meat, have been prepared, and it is intended that they should come into operation on the 1st May, 1926.

THEATRES AND CINEMAS.

These premises have been kept under observation during the year. The Douglas Corporation submitted plans relating to certain alterations in connection with Villa Marina, and these were approved by the Board. During the year the Cinematograph Act was passed, and, under the provisions of this Act, the Board made new regulations, which are now in operation.

RAT EXTERMINATION.

No rat extermination campaign was inaugurated during the year, as the Act for the extermination of rats had lapsed. The necessity of something being done is very great, as the rat population is increasing rapidly.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1924.

Regular inspections have been made of factories and workshops, during the year, with a view to ensuring that the necessary first-aid appliances are provided, and proper forms exhibited.

MECHANICAL CONTRIVANCES ACT, 1923.

The Board again by advertisement drew the attention of all concerned to the provisions of this Act, and all contrivances that come within the provisions of the Act have been carefully inspected.

One man, who erected a grand stand in the parish of Onchan, which was reported to be unsafe, was prosecuted and fined, the stand being subsequently taken down. A certificate was withheld for a contrivance known as "The Rapids," situated on Onchan Head, until it was put, after some delay, into a safe condition. The proprietors of other contrivances on Onchan Head have been warned that all erections will be very closely inspected before certificates of safety are granted.

The attention of the Douglas Corporation was drawn to the condition of the grand stand in the Playing Fields, and they were informed that this stand was considered to be in an unsafe condition, and that there was very little likelihood of a certificate of safety being granted for the year 1926. It was suggested to them that a stand constructed of steel should be provided. The Corporation took the matter up at once with the Auto-Cycle Union, with the result that a new stand is to be erected prior to the next motor cycle race.

MIDWIVES.

The number of midwives on the register at the end of the year under review was 59.

Douglas	19
Ramsey	9
Peel	4
Castletown	5
Onchan	5
Laxey	2
Port St. Mary	4
Andreas	1
Braddan	2
Ballaugh	1
Foxdale	1
Marown	1
Maughold	2
Malew	1
Arbory	1
Union Mills	1
	59

A Douglas nurse, for failing to register, was proceeded against and fined. A Peel nurse was also prosecuted for a similar offence, and the case was dismissed.

CHILDREN ACT, 1910.

The total number of children registered under Part 1 of the Children Act, during the year, was 104, an increase of one on the previous year.

The number restored to parents during the same period was 26.

Two children were removed from the Register, having reached the age of seven years.

Three women were cautioned for keeping their premises in an unsatisfactory condition.

One infant met with an accident by being kicked by a horse while under the care of a foster mother, and was removed to Hospital, where it speedily recovered.

One infant died from preumonia, but a doctor was in attendance during the period of illness.

A Douglas woman was fined £2 and costs for failing to register that she had in her charge two infants under the age of seven years.

CHILDREN REMOVED UNDER PART 2 OF THE CHILDREN ACT.

Although, as previously pointed out, the Board has no direct responsibility in enforcing the provisions of Part 2 of the Act, it has always been considered advisable, where children are suffering, to have them removed to a place of safety. Twelve children from different parts of the Island were removed and placed in the Children's Home.

Three parents were prosecuted and fined a sum amounting to £4 and costs for neglecting their children.

ADULTERATION ACTS.

The following table sets out the samples of food taken for analysis under the above Acts :—

Name of Article.	Number not Genuine.	Number Genuine.	Totals.
Milk	28	65	93
Butter		15	15
Coffee		18	18
Tea		25	25
Pepper		3	3
Self-Raising Flour		2	2
Vinegar		3	3
Rice		15	15
Barley		5	5
Sugar		14	14
Prescriptions		4	4
Whiskey		23	23
Rum		14	14
Gin		1	1
British Wines		19	19
Borax		2	2
Mustard		2	2
Margarine		11	11
	28	241	269

With regard to the samples of milk, five were adulterated so seriously as to necessitate proceedings being instituted against the offenders. These were fined an amount totalling £35. Regarding the other 23 samples of milk that were slightly deficient in fat, the farmers concerned were cautioned.

The total number of samples taken in the Isle of Man under the Adulteration Acts is at least 50 per cent. more than is required to be taken in England according to population.

Twelve tradesmen in different parts of the Island were proceeded against and fined in sums of 5s to £2 and costs, for failing to carry out the provisions of the Adulteration Acts with regard to the labelling of margarine.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1909.

The following table shows the number of factories and workshops registered in various districts during the year ended the 31st December, 1925 :—

District.	Factories.	Workshops.	Total.
Douglas	115	345	460
Ramsey	20	84	104
Castletown	10	33	43
Peel	17	65	82
Other Districts	62	151	213
	224	678	902

ORDERS SERVED, 1925.

Limewashing	18
Fencing Machinery	3
Means of escape in case of fire	2
Total	23

One occupier of a workshop was fined 10s and costs for employing a boy under 18 years, contrary to the Factory and Workshops Act.

RETURN OF ACCIDENTS.

Industry.	Cause of Accident.	Nature of Injury.
Bottlers.	Broken glass.	Hand cut (slight).
Joiners.	Timbers and bench.	Fingers crushed.
Manufacturers.	Winder.	Finger injured.
Printers.	Fall.	Severe shock.
Foundry.	Grit in eye.	Injury to eye (slight)
Engineering Works.	Lathe.	Hand cut.
Cabinet Makers.	Chisel.	Finger, whitlo.
Bottlers.	Cask.	Right thumb festered.
Bottlers.	Cask.	Toes injured.
Foundry.	Knife.	Palm cut.
Bottlers.	Cask.	Hand cut.
Gas Works.	Coke.	Shoulder bruised.
Electricity Works.	Engine.	Right hand jambed.
Brick Works.	Fall.	Severe injuries.
Die Makers.	Milling Machine.	Thumb injured.
Bottlers.	Crowner.	Lip cut.
Bottlers.	Broken glass.	Wrist cut.
Stoneyard.	Tar.	Scalded hand.
Bottlers.	Cask.	Toes bruised.
Printers.	Roll of paper.	Ankle injured.
Timber Yard.	Planing machine.	Hand cut.
Bottlers.	Broken glass.	Fingers cut.
Bottlers.	Stillage.	Fingers injured (slight).
Bottlers.	Box.	Hand scratched.
Manufacturers.	Cog wheels.	Fingers cut.
Bottlers.	Broken glass.	Finger cut.
Bottlers.	Broken glass.	Finger cut.
Bottlers.	Fall.	Head cut.
Bottlers.	Lift.	Broken jaw (severe).
Bottlers.	Fall.	Shock (slight).
Lake Road.	Fall.	Bruised back.
Lake Yard.	Splinter.	Eye injured (slight).
Bottlers.	Broken glass.	Finger cut.
Bottlers.	Broken glass.	Finger cut.

GENERAL.

Charts will be found in this report showing the fall in the deaths of children under one year, and in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis.

During the year, 70 complaints were made direct to the Board regarding insanitary conditions.

Two hundred and sixty-seven reports relating to various matters were considered by the Board, and copies forwarded to the Commissioners concerned. In addition, many special reports were considered.

As a Committee of Tynwald, the Board held public inquiries in connection with the following matters:—

Peel Commissioners, petition to borrow £4,000 for the erection of houses at Mount Morrison.

Douglas Corporation, petition to borrow £2,575 to purchase Upper Conrhenney. (2) Petition to borrow £8,407 for cost of laying new water main. (3) Petition to borrow £4,170 to purchase properties in Parade-street, New Bond-street, and Alms-house-lane. (4) Petition to borrow £1,800 for providing additional cloak-rooms and lavatories at Villa Marina. (5) Petition to borrow £28,500 for 60 dwelling-houses.

Douglas Corporation, petition to borrow £450 to purchase land adjoining 56, Allan-street.

Ramsey Commissioners, petition to borrow £5,840 for housing scheme.

Malew Commissioners, petition to borrow £4,756 for housing scheme.

Braddan Commissioners, petition to borrow £3,700 to purchase land for cottages.

Douglas Corporation, petition to borrow £385 for purchase of 2, St. Barnabas'-square.

Castletown Commissioners, petition to borrow £3,250 for six houses on Bowling Green Estate.

Port Erin Commissioners, petition to borrow £2,250 for two pairs semi-detached workmen's dwellings.

Douglas Corporation, petition to borrow £30,000 for the purpose of providing 15in. water main from West Baldwin to Douglas.

Rushen Commissioners, petition to borrow £1,100 to carry out housing scheme.

Douglas Corporation, petition to borrow £420 to purchase 9, New Bond-street.

Many conferences have been held during the year with various Boards of Commissioners by the Board's inspectors, in accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government Consolidation Act, 1916.

I continue to act under his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor as Inspector under the Cattle Diseases Act and the Burials Act.

I must again pay testimony to the valuable assistance rendered to me by the Secretary to the Board (Mr H. R. Gelling) at all times, particularly his guidance in legal matters.

All the members of the staff have rendered good and satisfactory service.

I have pleasure again in stating that I have received every possible assistance from the officials of every local authority in the Island.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
E. H. FARAGHER, M.R.S.I.,
Inspector.

RETURN OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES in all Districts (exclusive of Douglas and Ramsey) during the year ended the 31st December, 1925.

District.	Nature of Disease.							
	Enteric.	Scarlet.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Chicken Pox.	Tuberculosis.	Totals.
Castletown	—	—	1	6	—	3	1	11
Peel	—	2	1	—	—	—	9	12
Port St. Mary	—	1	—	—	—	16	4	21
Port Erin	—	—	—	1	—	5	4	10
Village of Onchan	—	1	1	—	—	1	3	6
Village of Laxey	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	7
Village of Michael	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Andreas	—	—	—	28	—	1	5	34
Arbory	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Ballaugh	2	—	—	7	—	—	1	10
Braddan	—	2	—	—	—	—	15	17
Bride	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onchan	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	6
German	1	—	—	1	—	6	2	10
Jurby	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Lezayre	—	1	—	2	—	7	5	15
Lonan	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	8
Malew	1	2	—	6	1	10	1	21
Marown	1	1	—	—	—	3	4	9
Maughold	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Michael	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Patrick	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Rushen	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	4
Santon	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	4
	5	15	4	56	3	57	75	215

RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES occurring each month during the year ended the 31st December, 1925.

Month.	Nature of Disease							
	Enteric.	Scarlet.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Chicken Pox.	Tuberculosis.	Totals.
January	—	1	1	13	—	3	5	23
February	—	2	—	17	—	6	6	31
March	2	2	—	—	—	2	9	15
April	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	7
May	—	—	—	—	2	3	10	15
June	—	—	—	2	—	—	12	14
July	—	—	—	12	1	4	8	25
August	1	2	1	3	—	8	4	19
September	—	3	—	—	—	2	1	6
October	1	5	—	—	—	4	7	17
November	—	—	—	2	—	6	5	13
December	1	—	2	7	—	16	4	30
	5	15	4	56	3	57	75	215

A shopkeeper in the parish of Arbory was proceeded against for failing to report three cases of Scarlet Fever on his premises, and was fined £5 with costs.

Town Hall, Ramsey,
Isle of Man,
March 20th, 1926.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Ramsey Town Commissioners to submit their report on the health of the Town of Ramsey during the year ended December 31st, 1925.

There were 43 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, viz.: 18 of measles; 17 of chickenpox; five of German measles; one of scarlet fever; one of cerebro spinal fever; and one of encephalitis lethargica. This last case was sent from across the water, and notified by the authority forwarding.

There were 13 patients treated in the Isolation Hospital—seven residents, and six from outside districts.

The regular inspection of cows, cowsheds, and dairies, was carried out with satisfactory results; an ample supply of good milk was available during the period.

There was an abundant supply of water of certified purity for domestic purposes during the whole of the year.

The health of the Town generally has been good, the corrected birth rate is 13.8; and the death rate 14.5.

The Town Commissioners desire to express their appreciation of the assistance rendered by the officers of the Local Government Board in connection with the milk supply, the removal of patients to hospital, and other matters outside the district affecting the health of the Town.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES BELL,
Clerk.

H. R. Gelling, Esq.,
Secretary, Local Government Board,
Douglas.

Town Clerk's Office,
Douglas, Isle of Man,
13th April, 1926.

Dear Sir,

I beg to report on the health of the Borough of Douglas for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The numbers of cases if infectious

The number of cases of infectious disease, exclusive of Tuberculosis, re- 15; Scarlet Fever, 24 ; Erysipelas, 6; Chickenpox, 71; Measles, 14; Enteric, 1; Encephalitis- Lethargica, 1; Diphtheria Scarlet, 1; Puerperal Fever, 1; a total of 134. The numbers of cases from the Borough which were treated in the Isolation Hospital were 35.

The total numbers of cases treated in the Isolation Hospital were 45, 10 cases being from other districts, as follows:—

	Scarlet	Diphtheria	Measles	Chicken-pox	Erysipelas	Enteric	Total.
Douglas	18	13	3	—	—	1	35
Other Districts...	4	3	—	1	—	2	10
Total...	22	16	3	1	—	3	45

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified was 68. Where advisable, visits are made to the premises, and conditions which are likely to cause or increase the disease are, as far as possible, remedied. In all cases disinfection is encouraged, and where permitted carried out free of charge.

CANCER.

In practically all cases of death from cancer, the premises have been disinfected at the request of the occupants.

SANITARY INSPECTION, ETC.

The inspection of premises within the Borough, including schools, holiday camps, and other premises, has been systematically carried out, and where necessary, notices were served to remedy defects, whereby the sanitary conditions of the premises have been greatly improved.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Bye-laws were approved under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1922. It would appear that there are few houses which come under the legal definition of a Common Lodging House, and these houses, owing to their situation and construction, are unsuitable for the purpose. The houses have not been registered, and, owing to the shortage of houses, it is difficult and impracticable to deal with them at present. They are, however, kept under observation.

TENEMENT HOUSES.

The shortage of houses also makes the question of putting the provisions of the Act of 1922 into force difficult. The Committee, however, have drafted bye-laws for consideration when the Board decides to declare the Act in operation.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

All meat slaughtered in Douglas is inspected before it leaves the abattoirs. Foodstuffs and premises where the same are stored or manufactured are under regular supervision, and during the year various quantities of unsound food have been condemned and destroyed.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse tip at Pulrose continues to be kept in a satisfactory manner, and in connection therewith a modern incinerator has been erected for the purpose of destroying offensive and bulky refuse, and has proved very useful. The provision of a larger apparatus is under the consideration of the Committee.

NORTHERN OUTFALL SEWER.

This work has progressed satisfactorily, and it is expected that the sewer will be completed before the 30th of September, 1926.

WATER SUPPLY.

Further work on the Watersheds of the Clypse and West Baldwin have been carried out in order to ensure against pollution, and new leases of the lands on the Watersheds belonging to the Corporation have been granted, including provisions to ensure the lands draining to the streams being used for pasture by limited numbers of sheep only.

Owing to the drought last season, the storage in the Clypse and Kerrowdhoo Reservoirs became very much reduced, and, whilst there was an abundant storage at West Baldwin, steps had to be taken to regulate the supply by supplying the water from West Baldwin in certain districts during alternative periods of the day. Steps were taken at once to arrange for a new additional main from Baldwin, and, after the necessary legislative powers had been obtained, the work was started, and the Committee are pressing it forward with all possible despatch so as to be able to utilise the new main for the ensuing season, should it be required.

DEATHS AND BIRTHS.

The corrected death rate was 14.3 per 1,000, and the birth rate 18 per 1,000.

The Board's officials have rendered valuable assistance in matters affecting the sanitation of the Borough, and the treatment of cases of infectious disease in other districts affecting or likely to affect the Borough.

Copies of the reports of the Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector will be forwarded in due course.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
A. ROBERTSON,
Town Clerk.

H. R. Gelling, Esq.,
Secretary,
Local Government Board,
Douglas.